

Executive Officer of Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), the Inland Northwest's largest chamber of commerce, Rich has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing jobs and business opportunities not only in Spokane but all across Eastern Washington and the Inland Northwest region.

When Rich arrived at the Spokane Chamber of Commerce in 1993, the organization looked and functioned very differently than the GSI the community knows today. Under Rich's leadership, GSI has been intentional in consolidating business promotion efforts, thereby presenting a strong, unified voice for the Inland Northwest. Specifically in 2007, Rich brought together the Chamber and the Spokane Area Economic Development Council, thereby creating Greater Spokane Incorporated. More recently, three groups, the International Trade Alliance, the Spokane STEM Network, and Connect Northwest, have integrated with GSI. These recent integrations serve as a testament to GSI's credibility as the groups know that GSI will be able to fulfill each of their missions.

From tirelessly advocating for Fairchild Air Force Base, an integral part of Spokane's community since 1942 when the City of Spokane and local residents purchased the land and donated it to the War Department, to supporting the start of the North Spokane Corridor, Eastern Washington's top transportation priority, Rich's legacies are numerous. However, his greatest legacy is his tireless commitment to bringing a medical school to Spokane.

Several years ago, Rich saw a need in Eastern Washington for a medical school as it would bring additional doctors to the region and open up new economic opportunities. Working with the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU), in 2008, WSU accepted its first group of first-year medical students at its Spokane campus. Last fall, it added 19 second-year students as part of the UW School of Medicine's second-year curriculum. Now, the University District is the center of a new bioscience complex that will be a major contributor to Spokane's future economic vitality.

A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington and on his country will long be remembered. So, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Hadley for a lifetime of dedicated service.

HONORING DAVID J. CRAWFORD

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary constituent of mine, David J. Crawford, who throughout his lifetime in Columbia County, NY has contributed significantly to economic growth and our sense of community in my home county.

David was born and raised in Germantown, where he played soccer, basketball, and the trumpet while working as a construction laborer in high school. After high school, he first began studying engineering at Columbia-Greene Community College, where he also was the 1st Trumpet in the College's first mu-

sical, "The Music Man." He then continued his undergraduate studies at Clarkson University and began his Master of Business Administration at Pace University, before setting off to work as a land surveyor and engineer for firms in Missouri, Michigan, and Indiana.

David returned to New York permanently in 1978 and founded Crawford & Associates Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C. in 1992. He is the current board President of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, past president and treasurer of Friends of Clermont, board member of the Columbia County Historical Society and Columbia County Board of Supervisors' Airport Committee, and past president of the Columbia County Association in the City of New York. Beyond his significant business and charitable contributions to Columbia County and surrounding areas, David has made an indelible mark on our region through his character and personal relationships.

I would like to again thank David for his life of service and business acumen that have immeasurably helped Upstate New York and beyond. It is no surprise to me, nor anyone else who knows him, that he continues to be recognized in a variety of ways, including winning the Columbia County Association in the City of New York 2013 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Thank you David, and keep up the incredible work.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month. Irritable bowel syndrome, or IBS, is a functional gastrointestinal disorder. It is characterized by recurring abdominal pain or discomfort related to changes in intestinal function. Other GI symptoms, such as nausea or bloating, and non-GI symptoms, such as sleep disturbances or headache, may often occur. IBS affects up to 15 percent of the U.S. population and accounts for roughly 40 percent of all referrals to gastroenterologists.

There is no cure and there are few treatments options for IBS, many of which are only marginally effective. Individuals with moderate to severe IBS struggle with symptoms that significantly limit their physical, emotional, economic, and social well-being. For example, a recent study found that employees with IBS had higher average total healthcare costs, and significantly higher medically related work absenteeism.

People of all ages are affected by IBS. One study found that 14 percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students have IBS. Children with IBS are also more likely to experience anxiety and depression and a disruption of normal activities and social interactions. In addition, veterans and active military personnel are disproportionately represented by those suffering from IBS and other functional gastrointestinal disorders due to their exposure to increased risk factors.

I am encouraged by efforts by non-profits to provide education, support, and advancing research. Recently, the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders

(IFFGD) developed a smart-phone app that allows patients to access information on IBS, including treatment options. These are the kind of new initiatives that need advancing so that the millions of Americans with IBS can be treated more effectively.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support research efforts and to raise awareness for IBS. As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected by IBS to find out more and get the help they need.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,436,444,226,130.22. We've added \$6,809,567,177,217.14 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 3RD POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important national holiday that will be celebrated this week by our friends in Poland, May 3rd, Polish Constitution Day. On May 3, 1791, Poland adopted the first constitution of its kind in Europe and second in the world following what had occurred here in America only a few years before.

This new constitution in Poland sought to supplant the prevailing anarchy fostered by some of the country's magnates with a more democratic constitutional monarchy. It introduced elements of political equality between townspeople and nobility and placed people of all classes under the protection of the government, thus mitigating the worst abuses of serfdom. It banned pernicious parliamentary institutions such as the liberum veto, which had put the Sejm (Polish Assembly) at the mercy of any deputy who could revoke all the legislation that had been passed by that Sejm.

The citizens of Poland knew this constitution was special and May 3rd was declared an official Polish holiday, Constitution Day, two days later on May 5, 1791. As with all new efforts toward freedom and greater democracy, the Polish Constitution met resistance and was banned during the partitions of Poland but eventually reinstated in April 1919 under the Second Polish Republic—the first holiday officially introduced in the newly independent country. The holiday was again outlawed during World War II by both Nazi and Soviet occupiers, only to be celebrated in Polish cities in May 1945 in a mostly spontaneous manner.

The 1946 pro-freedom demonstrators competed for attention with the communist-endorsed May 1 Labor Day celebrations in the Polish People's Republic. Until 1989, May 3 was a frequent occasion for anti-government and anti-communist protests and Polish Constitution Day was restored as an official Polish holiday in April 1990 after the fall of communism. In 2007, May 3 was declared a Lithuanian national holiday and Polish-American pride has been celebrated on the same date here in the United States as well. For instance since 1982 in Chicago, the Polish-American community have marked May 3rd with festivities and the annual Polish Constitution Day Parade, and in my own district, Polonia United, San Diego led by its President Zdzislaw (George) Juchum and its Vice President Miroslaw Gorny work tirelessly to inform and involve the San Diego community of this important event.

The Constitution of May 3, 1791, is evidence of successful internal reform and serves as a symbol of the eventual restoration of Poland's sovereignty. Congratulations to our friends and allies in Poland. As you celebrate Polish Constitution Day on May 3, please be assured that the United States stands beside you as a fellow defender of freedom and democracy.

SENATOR DAVE WATTENBERG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my colleague, neighbor, and above all else my friend . . . Dave Wattenberg. Dave passed away on Monday, January 20, 2014 with his wife Mary Sharon by his side.

Dave and I served together for 6 years in Colorado's State Senate.

He was a cowboy whose wit was unmatched but he was a serious legislator and public servant. During the years of Dave's service he passed over 250 bills. These laws encompassed mining, banking, air quality standards for public lands, and even bringing horse racing back to the State of Colorado.

He cared deeply about rural Colorado and his home and the people of northwest Colorado in Jackson County.

He understood better than most the issues that effected ranchers and farmers and he brought those issues to light at the Statehouse. The Colorado Brand Association legislation sponsored by Dave was most important to his love of western heritage.

Dave knew what it took to bring people together, to compromise and strike a deal to make good public policy for the people of Colorado.

I was honored to be the beneficiary of Dave and Mary Sharon's help and support over the years.

Whenever I talked to Dave he wanted to know how he could help me.

I will always remember the events in his backyard and treasure the times we just sat and talked and joked about our time at the Statehouse as well as about family and politics.

I know how much his wife, Mary Sharon will miss him. I and so many others will miss him too.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL GROUP FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Medical Group Foundation, based in Alexandria, Virginia, for hosting the first ever Measure Up/Pressure Down™ National Day of Action: Roll Up Your Sleeves! on May 15, 2014. On this day, medical groups, health systems, partners, and sponsors across the nation will take one "action" to improve blood pressure control in their communities. The services will range from free blood pressure screenings and patient education, to employee brown bag lunches and media outreach.

The Measure Up/Pressure Down™ initiative is a national campaign that raises awareness and control of blood pressure by working with more than 150 medical groups and health systems, partner organizations, and sponsors. High blood pressure (hypertension) is one of the biggest risk factors for heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and diabetes complications. Nearly one out of three American adults has high blood pressure. Yet out of these 68 million people, only half have the condition under control.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the American Medical Group Foundation's contributions to healthier communities, applaud their national day of action, and ask that my colleagues and their staffs consider taking part in this important event.

WATCHMAN NEE AND WITNESS LEE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a little over four years ago my esteemed colleague from New Jersey, the honorable CHRIS SMITH, rose in this chamber to bring due attention to one of the great Christians of the twentieth century—the noted Chinese teacher and church-planter, Watchman Nee. Today, I rise to complete the circle on this compelling story by honoring Watchman Nee's closest co-worker, Witness Lee. Together they labored tirelessly in China from 1932 until the conquest of mainland China by the Communist Red Army under Mao Tse Tung in 1949. Today, the story of Watchman Nee is somewhat well known, given his numerous writings that have become Christian classics, such as *The Normal Christian Life* and *Sit, Walk, Stand*. Capping his inspirational biography was his martyrdom in a Chinese labor farm in 1972.

Witness Lee's story is less known in the West but is in no way less significant. Although Nee was the clear leader when they labored together in China, it was left to Witness Lee, to preserve and continue their work outside of China and to spread it far beyond the Chinese-speaking world. When it became apparent in 1949 that the Communists would prevail in China, Watchman Nee insisted that Witness Lee emigrate to carry on their work in

Taiwan and throughout the Far East. Lee agreed. Subsequent developments not only validated Nee's insight (he was imprisoned shortly thereafter, and the churches raised up under his and Lee's ministry were forced underground), but also confirmed that their message and ministry had the potential to reach far beyond China.

Almost immediately Lee's ministry began to have a profound impact in Taiwan. Tens of thousands turned to Jesus Christ for their salvation and began congregating in simple, New Testament churches, as their Chinese brethren had done in China during the previous two decades. Today, there are more than 200 such local churches in Taiwan with more than 200,000 believers. It is a similar story in the Far East and Australasia, with churches established in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

Witness Lee did not confine his work to Asia. In 1962 he came to North America and began to minister from Los Angeles, where he established Living Stream Ministry, the publisher of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee in English and over fifty other languages. Witness Lee's speaking and writing continued to emphasize "Christ as life" and God's desire to "build His church" on the basis of the oneness of God's people, rather than on any ethnic or cultural differences. This was the same message that he had learned from his spiritual mentor, Watchman Nee. Since the early 1960s the spread of the local churches under Lee's ministry throughout the North and South America, Europe, and Africa has been remarkable. There are more than 4,000 churches and 400,000 believers meeting on every inhabited continent, including 200 churches and several thousand believers in Russia and the Russian-speaking world.

Inside mainland China the number of "hidden" believers following the ministry of Nee and Lee has continued to grow despite the Chinese government's often extreme measures to suppress and openly persecute them. Historically, members of the churches in China who appreciate the ministry of Nee and Lee have been among the most harshly persecuted. Thousands have been imprisoned, countless beaten, and many even martyred. It is estimated today that there may be two million believers and thousands of local churches in China that draw their spiritual nourishment and supply from the ministry of Nee and Lee.

Recently, reports have reached the West that Christian believers in two provinces have been imprisoned merely for possessing copies of the Recovery Version, a study Bible published by Living Stream Ministry and Taiwan Gospel Book Room, the publishing entity Lee established in Taiwan. Today Watchman Nee is still labeled as a "dangerous counterrevolutionary," and Witness Lee is officially branded as a "cult leader." The writings of both men are banned in China. It is tragic that Watchman Nee died in a Chinese prison farm, totally unaware of how profoundly his life and ministry would impact the entire world. It is a similar tragedy that Witness Lee died in 1997 with such a blatant, gross distortion hanging over his name and his ministry in his homeland.

It is ironic that at a time when China is taking such a prominent role on the world stage in so many areas of society, it is missing an obvious opportunity to further improve its reputation with in the international community.